File Code: 2230

Date: June 1, 2000

Phillip K. Knight P.O. Box 1525 Wickenburg, AZ 85358

### Dear Mr. Knight:

Your annual application (dated 3/31/00) is approved. This letter is your 2000 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Buck Springs allotment and is incorporated as part of your Term Grazing Permit. The tentative date for livestock to start arriving on-Forest is May 20. Tentative date to have livestock off the Forest is October 20.

Total numbers applied for and approved are 250 medium yearlings and 6 horses. Partial nonuse is approved for resource protection (mitigation for Little Colorado spinedace and Mexican spotted owl).

We will rest the Riparian pastures (16), Dines Tank Exclosure, Knolls (1), McClintock (5), North McClintock (6), South Pinchot (7), North Pinchot (8), North Battleground (10), South Battleground (9), McCarty (11), Aspen Springs Horse, and Jumbo North (12) and South (13) Pastures this year. These pastures will be monitored to ensure livestock are kept out of these areas. See the enclosed map for the locations of the rested pastures.

You will use the Horse (15), Moonshine (4), Dines (2), and North Pastures (3) in 2000. The following schedule shows the pasture rotation for 2000.

PASTURE	# (as shown on map)	DATES
Horse	(15)	5/20 - 5/27
Dines	(2)	5/28 - 6/6
North (East ½)	(3)	6/7 - 8/8
Moonshine	(4)	8/9 - 8/19
North Pasture (West ½)	(3)	8/20 - 10/20





You will start gathering cattle out of the North Pasture and into the Horse Pastures, approximately one week before you are due out of the North Pasture, in preparation for shipping cattle out of the allotment. It is important that you ship out on or before the scheduled off-date, to avoid a need for re-billing for use after the end of the permitted season.

This schedule is tentative and is designed to be flexible. Dates, pastures, and timing of moves may vary, depending on available forage, summer precipitation, and wildlife use of the pastures scheduled for use in 2000, and other resource concerns. Changed conditions may cause a further alteration of this schedule to prevent resource damage. If forage production is low due to lack of precipitation or wildlife use, length of stay in each pasture will be shortened. If all pastures in the grazing schedule are used before the end of the season, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

### The following is the utilization allowed in each pasture:

A. North, Horse	40%
B. Dines, Moonshine	35%

The allowable use in the table above is the grazing utilization permitted by both livestock and wildlife. You, the permittee, will continue to monitor and document utilization rates prior to livestock entry into a pasture, during livestock use, and when livestock leave the pasture. If use levels in key areas exceed the agreed to levels before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used. If utilization in the key areas reaches the levels in the table above, you will move the cattle to the next pasture in the rotation. USFS personnel will also measure utilization levels periodically, (at least every two weeks)

I agree that the Diablo Trust proposal (dated 2/29/98) for monitoring forage utilization is acceptable and will be followed this year. The key areas selected in 1999 are acceptable. This spring, you and Jerry Gonzales will review the key areas and decide if these monitoring locations are adequate. If needed, you and Jerry will select additional locations of key areas to be monitored this year.

You will ensure that the procedures as outlined in the Diablo Trust proposal are followed and that the Forest Service receives copies of all monitoring forms immediately at the end of the grazing season. It is very important that this monitoring be done during the time frames specified, and that all of the monitoring forms be turned in to the Forest Service at the end of the season.

I have enclosed a copy of the following mitigation measures (*Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon on Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans*). The mitigation measures have been made part of the AOP. To avoid impacting spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs), the enclosed mitigation measures must be followed in the locations specified in the following table during the breeding season (March 1 to August 31). The locations where salting and gathering are allowed (part 4) are specified in the enclosure.

You will attempt to herd the animals again in 2000. We will be monitoring your success in implementing this grazing system this year. If the system is working, you should be able to regulate grazing in the pastures so that certain areas are not overgrazed while others are undergrazed. You will be responsible to ensure that the livestock are kept out of sensitive areas such as meadows,

riparian areas, riparian pastures, and the rested pastures noted previously (<u>especially</u> Knolls pasture and the Dines Tank exclosure). It is important that you have maintained the fences in the pastures before cattle enter the allotment, as this will help you maintain control of the livestock, ensure that you have a fair chance to implement the herding grazing system, and prevent unauthorized use in rested pastures as well as in sensitive areas.

You will need to ensure that the fences across Leonard Canyon at the Dines Tank exclosure are up, as well as the Knoll Pasture fences, before you enter the allotment. You also need to maintain the Dines Tank exclosure fence throughout the grazing season. This will ensure that strays, if any, do not get into the exclosure. While the cattle are in the Dines Pasture, you must ensure that the cattle are not putting any pressure on the Dines Tank Exclosure. You will also need to ride the east side of Leonard Canyon to make sure that the fence on that side is also up and maintained during the grazing season. You will also be required to ride Leonard Canyon on a weekly basis to ensure that cattle are not in the drainage.

You will be required to construct the waterlot at Thicket Tank in 2000, in preparation for use of the McCarty pasture in 2001. We have the clearances for construction of the Jumbo pasture division fence this year. However, at this time we do not have the material to provide you for constructing this fence. If this changes, we will contact you.

Caution needs to be used during any activities that potentially could start a fire. All vehicles should be equipped with a serviceable water bucket, shovel, and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, are required to have a fire ring down to mineral soil at least ten feet in diameter, and must be handled in a safe manner.

Please notify District personnel prior to use of any heavy equipment, so that we can arrange a time to have a prevention patrolman inspect your equipment on site. All state and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the Blue Ridge District at 477-2255, the Long Valley District at 354-2216, or the Coconino National Forest fire dispatcher at 526-0600.

This Annual Operating Plan is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit, as provided in Part 2, Section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1,2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, we may suspend or cancel your permit, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. The AOP complies with the standards and guidelines found in the LMP.

The Annual Operating Plan is appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.82(a)(3) Grazing and livestock permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A. Appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to occupy and use National Forest System lands.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, feel free to contact Jerry Gonzales at the Long Valley Ranger Station (520-354-2216).

/Larry G. Sears/

LARRY G. SEARS
District Ranger
Blue Ridge and Long Valley Ranger Districts

### Enclosures

cc: Rodger Zanotto, S.O. cc: Mark Whitney, S.O.

cc: Bruce Palmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DIABLO TRUST 02/05/98

DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPE VALUES

PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT

PLOT#	LOCATIO	ON			
DATE		MONITORER(s)			
PASTURE <u>Hors</u>	<u>se</u>	ACRES _	KE`	Y AREA A	CRES
L/S CLASS & NO		1	L/S CONDITIO	N	
DATES GRAZED _		ADA	As	AUMs _	
RECOVERY PERIC	)D	days DAT	E OF LAST G	RAZE	
WEATHER					
PRECIPITATION: 0	GAUGE	EST	_ WIND		
AVG: BEI	LOW AVG:	ABOVE AV	'G:		
WATER #		WATER CO	NDITION		
GRAZE LEVEL BE	FORE L/S 0-2	20 20-40	40-60	_ 60-80	80-100
GRAZE LEVEL AF	TER L/S 0-2	20 20-40	40-60	_ 60-80	80-100
GROWTH RATE	Cool Seasons	fast	slow	dorr	nant
GROWTH RATE	Warm Seasons	fast	slow	dorr	nant
PLANT VIGOR	Warm Seasons	below average _	average	abov	e average
PLANT VIGOR	Cool Seasons	below average _	average	abov	e average
SPECIES					
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
I WEGTOOK DIGT	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
LIVESTOCK DISTI	KIDU HUN				

GENERAL COMMENTS
INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Plot: # or name Location: Sec.#, road#, distance from road, compass reading to post GPS reading if possible.
2. Date: the day of monitoring Monitorer person or persons doing the monitoring
3. Pasture: name of pasture its acres, and the acres of the key area
4. L/S Class: cows & calves or yearlings L/S Condition: poor fair good excellent
5. Dates grazed mo/day/yr - mo/day/yr ADA's: animal days per acre formula/ number of animals times number of days divided by acres = AUM's: animal unit months formula/ number of animals times number of days divided by 30.4 =
6. Recovery period: number of days since last graze Date of last graze: mo/day/yr
7. Weather: during graze period wet, dry, windy, snow, cold, hot what happened
8. Precipitation: rain gauge contact USFS for closest gauge amount, or best estimate, was it windy
9. Water#: how many waters in pasure Water condition: full, low, puddles from rain
10. Graze level: on key species, percent utilization, before livestock
11. Graze level: on key species, percent utilization, after livestock
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13. Plant vigor: check below, average, or above for both warm and cool season plants
14. Species: list the key species in plot or area and check off if present, if they seeded, what is the percent of occurrence in area and measure the stubble height. Then circle L M or H for light, moderate, or heavy use of that species. DIABLO TRUST 02/05/98

DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPE VALUES

# PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT PLOT# \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ MONITORER(s) \_\_\_\_ PASTURE \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES \_\_\_\_\_ KEY AREA ACRES \_\_\_\_\_ L/S CLASS & NO. \_\_\_\_\_ L/S CONDITION \_\_\_\_ DATES GRAZED \_\_\_\_\_\_ ADAs \_\_\_\_\_ AUMs \_\_\_\_\_ RECOVERY PERIOD days DATE OF LAST GRAZE WEATHER \_\_\_\_\_ PRECIPITATION: GAUGE \_\_\_\_\_ EST \_\_\_\_ WIND \_\_\_ AVG: \_\_\_\_\_ BELOW AVG: \_\_\_\_ ABOVE AVG: \_\_\_\_ WATER # \_\_\_\_\_ WATER CONDITION \_\_\_\_\_ 0-20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-40 \_\_\_\_ 40-60 \_\_\_\_ 60-80 \_\_\_\_ 80-100 \_\_\_\_ GRAZE LEVEL BEFORE L/S 0-20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-40 \_\_\_\_ 40-60 \_\_\_\_ 60-80 \_\_\_\_ 80-100 \_\_\_\_ GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S fast \_\_\_\_\_ slow \_\_\_\_ dormant \_\_\_\_ **GROWTH RATE** Cool Seasons **GROWTH RATE** Warm Seasons fast \_\_\_\_\_ slow \_\_\_\_ dormant \_\_\_\_ PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average \_\_\_\_\_ above average \_\_\_\_ PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average \_\_\_\_\_ above average \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIES \_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_ L M H present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_ L M H present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_ L M H \_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_ L M H \_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_ L M H present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_ L M H present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_ L M H LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION \_ GENERAL COMMENTS

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9. Water#: how many waters in pasure Water condition: full, low, puddles from rain
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DIABLO TRUST 02/05/98
DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPE VALUES
PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT
PLOT# LOCATION

DATE		MONITORER(	(s)			
PASTURE North (E 1	<u>/2)</u>	ACRES	KE	Y AREA A	CRES	
L/S CLASS & NO			_ L/S CONDITIO	N		
DATES GRAZED		AD	OAs	AUMs _		
RECOVERY PERIOD		days DA	ATE OF LAST GF	RAZE		
WEATHER						
PRECIPITATION: GAUGE		_EST	WIND			
AVG: BELOW AV	/G:	ABOVE A	VG:			
WATER #		WATER C	ONDITION			
GRAZE LEVEL BEFORE L	/S 0-20	) 20-40 _	40-60	_ 60-80	80-100	
GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S	G 0-20	20-40 _	40-60	_ 60-80	80-100	
GROWTH RATE Cool	Seasons	fast	slow	dorı	mant	
GROWTH RATE Warm	Seasons	fast	slow	don	mant	
PLANT VIGOR Warn	n Seasons	below average	average	abov	e average	
PLANT VIGOR Cool	Seasons	below average	average _	abov	e average	
SPECIES						
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble	height	L M
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble	height	L M l
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble	height	LMI
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble	height	L M l
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble	height	L M l
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble	height	LMI
			seeded:			LMI
LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION	JN					
GENERAL COMMENTS _						

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DIABLO TRUST 02/05/98
DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPE VALUES
PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT
PLOT# LOCATION
DATE MONITORER(s)
PASTURE Moonshine ACRES KEY AREA ACRES
L/S CLASS & NO

PRECIPITATION: GAUGE EST WIND	DATES GRAZED		_ ADAs	AUMs _	
AVG:BELOW AVG:ABOVE AVG:	RECOVERY PERIOD	days	DATE OF LAST O	GRAZE	
WATER #	WEATHER				
GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S  0-20 20-40 40-60 60-80 80-100  GROWTH RATE	PRECIPITATION: GAUGE	EST	WIND		
GRAZE LEVEL BEFORE L/S 0-20 20-40 40-60 60-80 80-100  GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S 0-20 20-40 40-60 60-80 80-100  GROWTH RATE Cool Seasons fast slow dormant  GROWTH RATE Warm Seasons fast slow average above average  PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average average above average  PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average average above average  PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average average above average  present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I	AVG: BELOW AVG:	ABOV	E AVG:		
GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S 0-20 20-40 40-60 60-80 80-100  GROWTH RATE	WATER #	WATE	R CONDITION		
GROWTH RATE Cool Seasons fast slow dormant  GROWTH RATE Warm Seasons fast slow dormant  PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average average above average  PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average average above average  SPECIES present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I	GRAZE LEVEL BEFORE L/S	0-20 20-	40 40-60	60-80	80-100
GROWTH RATE Warm Seasons fast slow dormant  PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average average above average  PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average average above average  SPECIES present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I	GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S 0	)-20 20-4	40 40-60	60-80	80-100
PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average above average SPECIES present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I	GROWTH RATE Cool Seasons	fast	slow	dorn	nant
PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average above average	GROWTH RATE Warm Seasons	fast	slow	dorr	nant
SPECIES	PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons	s below aver	rage averag	e abov	e average
present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I	PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons	below aver	age average	e abov	e average
present:occurrence:seeded:stubble height L M I	SPECIES				
present:	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
present:occurrence:seeded:stubble height L M I present:occurrence:seeded:stubble height L M I present:occurrence:seeded:stubble height L M I LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
present: occurrence: seeded: stubble height L M I LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
	present:	occurrer	nce: seeded:	stubble l	height L M H
GENERAL COMMENTS	LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION				
GENERAL COMMENTS					
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DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPI VALUES
PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT
PLOT# LOCATION
DATE MONITORER(s)
PASTURE North (W ½) ACRES KEY AREA ACRES
L/S CLASS & NOL/S CONDITION
DATES GRAZED ADAs AUMs
RECOVERY PERIOD days DATE OF LAST GRAZE

WEATHER					
PRECIPITATION: GA	AUGE	_ EST	_ WIND		
AVG: BELO	OW AVG:	ABOVE AV	G:		
WATER #		WATER CO	NDITION		
GRAZE LEVEL BEF	ORE L/S 0-2	0 20-40	40-60	_ 60-80 80-100	
GRAZE LEVEL AFT	ER L/S 0-20	0 20-40	40-60	_ 60-80 80-100 _	
GROWTH RATE	Cool Seasons	fast	_ slow	dormant	
GROWTH RATE	Warm Seasons	fast	_ slow	dormant	
PLANT VIGOR	Warm Seasons	below average	average	above average _	
PLANT VIGOR	Cool Seasons	below average	average	above average _	
SPECIES					
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble height	LMH
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble height	LMH
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble height	LMH
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble height	LMH
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble height	LMH
	present:	occurrence:	seeded:	stubble height	LMH
				stubble height	LMH
LIVESTOCK DISTRI	IBUTION				
GENERAL COMME	NTS				

13

INSTRUCTIONS:

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# Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans Draft Mitigation 8-14-98 for The Buck Springs Allotment

The following mitigation measures would apply for Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.

The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

- 1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan :
  - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
  - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
  - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
- 2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, or mineral blocks.
  - A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
  - B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.
  - C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.

- 3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the district Range Staff.
  - A. Spring branding or fall gathering.
  - B. Construction activities such as; new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

# 4. Exceptions to the Mitigation Measures shown on the attached map for the Buck Springs Allotment.

Salting is allowed in the following areas, based on consultation between the wildlife biologist and Phil Knight on 8-14-98:

- A. **Holding Pastures**: All current holding pastures except the west half of the Schneider pasture and the west half of the Horse Pasture.
- B. **Forest Service Pasture:** East of the Forest Road (FR) 137.
- C. **North Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile of the FR 137/137B intersection. Within 1/8 mile of FR 96C in sections 12 and 1.
- D. **Pinchot Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile of the intersection of FR 95/139 and the intersection of FR 95/95D.
- E. **McCarty Pasture:** In the future, if this pasture is used, it is acceptable to salt within 1/8 mile of FR 141C/141A intersection.
- F. **Burn Pasture**: Within the entire pasture.
- G. **Knoll Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile of the intersection of FR 300/295.
- H. **Battleground Pasture**: Within 1/8 mile south of FR 123/123E intersection.
- 2. Gathering may continue to occur in the holding pastures named Schneider Springs and Horse Pasture. Salting on the east half of the pastures will be used to draw cattle away from existing PAC's.

These mitigation measures should be followed pending concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.